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February 11, 2013

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
House of Representatives  
1221 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

On behalf of the DAV, a congressionally chartered national veterans service organization with 1.2 million members, all of whom were wounded or injured as a result of active duty in the United States Armed Forces, I am pleased to offer our support for H.R. 235, the Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2013, which would help to improve employment prospects for veterans with military emergency medical training.

The DAV is dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish this by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans and servicemembers transitioning back to civilian life.

As you know, transitioning servicemembers who have received specialized occupational training in the military are often required to undergo redundant civilian training in order to meet various state licensing and certification requirements. H.R. 235 would provide demonstration grants to states with a shortage of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in order to streamline state licensing requirements for military veteran EMTs and prevent unnecessary duplication in their training.

DAV Resolution 194, adopted by our membership in August 2012, calls on Congress and the Administration to work together with states in order to "...establish a clear process so military training meets civilian certification and licensure requirements for the states in which they choose to live once they leave the military." H.R. 235 would do exactly that for military veterans with EMT training, not only helping to ease their transition into the civilian workforce, but also addressing a critical health care need in many areas of the country.

Thank you for introducing this legislation and for your continued support of America's wounded and injured veterans. I look forward to working with you to continue fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

Sincerely,

BARRY A. JESINOSKI  
Executive Director

Washington Headquarters

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